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## **Drive Sober to Save Lives on North Dakota Roads this Holiday Season**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* campaign is underway nationwide beginning December 16 through January 1. In recognition of this campaign in North Dakota, the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and North Dakota law enforcement wants to remind drivers to drive sober to save lives on North Dakota roads this holiday season.

In North Dakota last year, there were 849 alcohol-related crashes resulting in 57 deaths and 496 injuries. Last year during the holiday season (mid-December – late January), four people were killed and 38 injured in alcohol-related crashes.

"Deaths and injuries from impaired driving crashes are 100 percent preventable," said Karin Mongeon, NDDOT Safety Division Director. "We are asking the public to refrain from driving if impaired by alcohol or any type of drug in order to keep everyone safe on the roads."

Over the past 10 years in North Dakota, the percent of alcohol-related fatal crashes has fluctuated from a high of 56 percent in 2007, to a low of 41 percent in 2009. In 2015, nearly 44 percent of motor vehicle fatalities in North Dakota were alcohol-related.

The NDDOT administers federal grant funding as part of an overall effort to prevent deaths and injuries on North Dakota roads. Learn more about these and other traffic safety initiatives at <a href="dot.nd.gov">dot.nd.gov</a>, <a href="ndcodefortheroad.org">ndcodefortheroad.org</a> or join the conversation on the Code for the Road Facebook or Twitter page.

Families are invited to create memorials for those who have died in crashes in North Dakota at <a href="mailto:ndcodefortheroad.org/memorial">ndcodefortheroad.org/memorial</a>.